

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously amended) A method for actuating a wheel brake assembly comprising the steps of (a) initially actuating the brake assembly in a tightening direction to cause a brake lining to be pressed against a brake body to establish a quasi-static terminal braking state, then (b) actuating the wheel brake assembly (10) for a brief period of time in a release direction opposite to the tightening direction, and then (c) again actuating the brake assembly in the tightening direction, said brief period of time of the actuation in the release direction being selected to be so short that any reduction of the braking force is imperceptible.

9. (Previously amended) A method for actuating a mechanical system involving friction and having a spring elasticity to increase a force exerted by the system beyond a force attainable in a quasi-static state, the method comprising the steps of (a) actuating the system for a brief period of time in a release direction and then (b) tightened, the period of time of the actuation in the release direction being selected to be so short that any reduction of the force exerted is imperceptible.

10. (Previously added) The method of claim 8 further comprising repeating steps (b) and (c).

11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising repeating steps (a) and (b).

12. (Previously added) The method of claim 10, wherein steps (b) and (c) are repeated after a predetermined period of time after the onset of the re-tightening.

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 11, wherein steps (a) and (b) are repeated after a predetermined period of time after the onset of the re-tightening.

14. (Previously added) The method of claim 10, wherein steps (b) and (c) are repeated when the wheel brake assembly (10) comes to a stop upon re-tightening.

15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 11, wherein steps (a) and (b) are repeated when the system (10) comes to a stop upon re-tightening.

16. (Previously added) The method of claim 10, wherein number of repetitions of steps (b) and (c) is limited.

17. (Previously amended) The method of claim 11, wherein number of repetitions of steps (a) and (b) is limited.

18. (Previously added) The method of claim 8 wherein said brief period of time during which the wheel brake assembly (10) is actuated in the release direction is defined by

a travel distance by which an actuating element of the wheel brake assembly (10) is moved in the release direction.

19. (Previously added) The method of claim 9 wherein said brief period of time during which the system (10) is actuated in the release direction is defined by a travel distance by which an actuating element of the system (10) is moved in the release direction.

20. (Previously added) A method for actuating an electromechanical wheel brake assembly having an electric motor, a brake actuator and means connecting the electric motor to the brake actuator for converting rotary motion of the electric motor into a translational motion, the method comprising the steps of (a) initially actuating the electric motor in a tightening direction to cause the brake actuator to be pressed against a brake body to establish a quasi-static terminal braking state, then (b) actuating the electric motor for a brief period of time in a release direction opposite to the tightening direction, and then (c) again actuating the electric motor in the tightening direction, said brief period of time of the actuation in the release direction being selected to be so short that any reduction of the braking force is imperceptible.

21. (Previously added) The method of claim 20 further comprising repeating steps (b) and (c).

22. (Previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein steps (b) and (c) are repeated after a predetermined period of time after the onset of the re-tightening.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein steps (b) and (c) are repeated when the wheel brake assembly (10) comes to a stop upon re-tightening.

24. (Previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein number of repetitions of steps (b) and (c) is limited.

25. (Previously added) The method of claim 20 wherein said brief period of time during which the electric motor is actuated in the release direction is defined by a travel distance by which the electric motor is moved in the release direction.